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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CALIFORNIA DRUG COURIER
SENTENCED TO 27 YEARS**

PRESS RELEASE

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that Mexican national JOSE RICARDO VIGIL, 28, Los Angeles, California, was sentenced to 27 years imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his conviction at trial March 11, 2003 for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine with intent to distribute. This case was the result of a year-long investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Evansville Police Department, Gibson County Sheriff's Department, Vincennes Police Department, and Daviess County Sheriff's Department that resulted in the arrest and conviction of fourteen other individuals.

Vigil was the principal drug courier for a methamphetamine distribution organization operated by Wilfredo Barrios, of Los Angeles, California and Brian and Jerome Davis, of

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Evansville, Indiana. The investigation largely involved wire surveillance conducted over a cellular telephone used by Brian Davis. The organization operated in southwestern Indiana from mid-1999 through November 28, 2001. Trial testimony established that the organization distributed approximately 1,660 pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$73 million, during its two years of operation. During the wire surveillance, DEA seized forty pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$1.8 million. Vigil transported the bulk of the methamphetamine from Los Angeles to Indianapolis and Nashville, Tennessee via commercial airlines. Vigil then met operatives of Jerome Davis and Brian Davis at the Indianapolis or Nashville airport and delivered the methamphetamine to them. Vigil was interdicted at the Los Angeles International Airport on June 12, 2001 and over \$70,000 was seized from his person. The money was subsequently forfeited by the Drug Enforcement Administration.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Bradley A. Blackington, who prosecuted the case for the government, VIGIL will be deported at the conclusion of his sentence.

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